

Application No. 10/063,972

Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for his careful consideration of the application.

Claims 1-29 stand rejected.

The first paragraph of the specification has been amended to fill in the blanks for copending applications.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-24 and 26 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yu et al (U.S. Patent 6,652,691).

Claims 1 9 and 16 have been amended to explicitly claim a treatment strip as part of the apparatus. The Examiner has not shown that the '691 patent discloses a belt seam treatment apparatus including a treatment strip. Therefore, claims 1, 9, and 16 should be allowable over the '691 patent.

Claims 2, 4, 6-8, 10-15, 17-24, and 26 should be allowed if claims 1, 9, and 16 are allowed as claims 2, 4, and 6-8 depend from claim 1, claims 10-15 depend from claim 9, and claims 17-24 and 26 depend from claim 16.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 3, 5, 25 and 27-29 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over Yu et al (U.S. Patent 6,652,691).

As recited with respect to the 102(e) rejections elsewhere in this amendment, claims 1, 9, and 16 have been amended to explicitly include a treatment strip as part of the belt seam treatment apparatus. The Examiner has not addressed the presence of a treatment strip in the '691 patent and Applicant does not believe there is one.

Double Patenting

Provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection. This rejection is moot as Applicant submits a terminal disclaimer along with this amendment. Applicant respectfully points out a clerical error in one of the Application Nos. cited in the Examiner's double patenting rejection. Application

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No. "10/693,522" as stated in the rejection, should read Application No. "10/693,552." Applicant has referenced the correct number in the attached Terminal Disclaimer.

Conclusion

The undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025. This also constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and authorization to charge all fees therefor to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

A telephone interview is respectfully requested at the number listed below prior to any further Office Action, i.e., if the Examiner has any remaining questions or issues to address after this paper. The undersigned will be happy to discuss any further Examiner-proposed amendments as may be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

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